voters in the election of Municipal Councillors. At present, the voters had to strike off from the ballot paper the names of the candidates for whom they were not voting. But those who were accustomed to vote in the Legislative Council elections were often tempted to put a cross mark against the name of the candidate preferred by them, thus making the ballot paper invalid. Hence it was desirable that the method followed in the recording of votes in Legislative Council elections was followed in the case of municipal elections also. That aspect of the question should also be considered in amending the Rules.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kolappa Pillai. The question of the water supply scheme relating to Nagercoil will be duly considered. So also the question of the grant to the Maternity and Child Welfare centre.

You mentioned something about the rules for Provident Fund. Even now there is nothing to prevent the Municipality from framing bye-laws in regard to Provident Fund. Anyhow that also will be considered.

The modifications to rules that you wanted will be referred to the Law Member and he will be asked to consider the introduction of suitable provisions in the new Municipal Bill under preparation.

MEMBER: I also referred to the deposit of municipal funds in the Co-operative Banks.

DEWAN: I was going to tell you that the other matters you represented would be considered by Government. But as you are anxious for a reply on this subject, I will say that, under the Municipal Regulation, there is a duty cast upon the Government to see that the municipal funds are invested in such a way that there is reasonable security for them and not to allow them to be invested in such a way as to merely encourage particular institutions. This is one of the main considerations that Government have to keep in mind. But I may assure you that Government do not stand in the way of investments being made in any particular institution except on grounds of security.

### 81. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. R. S. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) spoke about the following needs of the Kalkulam taluk :—

1. A few public wells should be sunk at Aloor and Thalakulam. Those two places were thickly populated and there was great scarcity of good drinking water. The poor people were put to much hardship their only source of water supply being a few neglected tanks in the locality. Lack of good drinking water was the cause of such epidemics as cholera, the utter ravages of which among the people of Kalkulam during 1104 and 1105, were still fresh in memory. The Government should bestow their early attention on this important matter.

2. A dispensary should be established at Aloor at an early date. This subject was represented at the 24th Session of the Assembly and it was replied that the matter would be considered in connection with the question of the systematisation of dispensaries and hospitals proposed to be taken up shortly. It was now three years and still the grievances of the people in the matter remained unredressed. The people of Aloor and the surrounding places had to go either to Nagercoil or Thuckalai, 10 miles away from the locality, for medical aid. Hence the matter should be looked into again to see whether anything could be done at an early date.

3. The Monday Market, one of the biggest and most important markets in South Travancore, was at present held in an open space. It should be enclosed by means of a compound wall. It would appear that the Government had already sanctioned the work. In that case, the work should be expedited.

4. The Anchal office building at the Monday Market should be demolished and the Anchal office should be shifted to some convenient site, for the convenience of traffic. The present location of the building at the Monday Market junction was a source of great danger and obstruction to motor traffic.

5. Savings Bank and Insurance business should be introduced in the Village Anchal office at Thuckalai. The increasing business of the Thuckalai Village office, which was started only seven months back, justified its conversion into a bigger office with the above business also.

6. The Kalkulam taluk should be treated as a separate constituency for purposes of election to the Legislative Council. The Kalkulam *cum* Vilavankod constituency was the biggest in the State; and, as disclosed by the preliminary electoral rolls published recently, the voters numbered about 15,000, and they were distributed in scattered villages over a large extent of area. It did not appear that the present constituency was fixed either on the basis of the extent of area or on that of the strength of the electorate or even on grounds of linguistic or communal considerations. Hence the Kalkulam taluk should be treated as a separate constituency. If that was not possible at present, at least some of the distant *pakuthies* of the Vilavankod taluk should be amalgamated with the neighbouring constituencies, so as to reduce the constituency to manageable proportions.

7. There were, at present, within the Padmanabhapuram Municipality, three arrack and two toddy shops, located in important places and near congested quarters on the road side. They were a source of nuisance to the travelling public and to respectable people living in the locality. They should therefore be removed from within the municipal limits of Padmanabhapuram. The Municipality had also passed a unanimous resolution urging the desirability of shifting the shops from their present sites.

The member then referred to the question of the proper regulation of motor traffic in the State. The motor traffic in the State was daily on the increase. The recent timings sanctioned by the Commissioner of Police for motor service in the Trivandrum--Nagercoil line was not at all satisfactory. Till lately an interval of 15 minutes was allowed between the starting of each bus. But now it had been reduced to 10 minutes, to the great inconvenience to the travelling public. The change of timings had resulted in unhealthy competition, fraught with dangerous consequences both to the passengers and to the users of the public road. Each bus chased the one before it, to overtake it for picking up passengers. Thus over-speeding had become quite common. Hence the original system under which an interval of 15 minutes was insisted on between the starting of buses should be adopted. The present practice of refusing permits to big buses to ply for hire on branch roads, and for ten-seaters and other small buses, for plying for hire on main roads was also undesirable. The work of checking motor traffic was not attended to properly. It was now done by the constables, who did not know anything about the Motor Vehicles Regulation or the Rules framed thereunder. They were also generally illiterate. Hence more responsible Police officers, like the Head Constables, who had a working knowledge of English, should be posted for duty at the checking stations. There was lack of proper control of the Traffic Section of the Police Department and that caused much hardship to the people. Instances of such cases were many, such as the indiscriminate shuffling of the timings of the service buses without following any principle or policy, increasing the number of buses in the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line, etc. Another thing which caused considerable hardship to the poor individual bus owners was the delay in the issue of "G" permits. Prompt disposal of the grant of permits should be insisted on.

The member then stated that the Motor Vehicles Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder stood in urgent need of amendment, as several Sections of the Regulation and the Rules had to be modified to suit present day circumstances. For instance, there were no buses now running with chains, yet the old rule that spare chains should be carried, was in force. There was no rule that spare tyres or tubes or for that matter, even a jack to lift a wheel should be carried in buses. It was not known what " special permits " exactly meant and who was actually competent to issue them. Under the Regulation, the Registering authority, *viz.*, the Police Commissioner, alone was competent to grant it. But now even Head Constables were granting them without any restriction. The practice should be stopped. Again, in regard to punishments awarded to conductors and drivers, under the present practice, for an offence under the Regulation, the offender was subjected to a dual punishment, both departmental and judicial. The practice was quite unfair as two punishments for a single offence caused real heartburn. There was nothing to justify it even in the Indian Penal Code. In conclusion, the member requested that a Board, as

recommended by the Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee, should be appointed at an early date, to remedy the above evils and to control properly the motor traffic in the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subramonia Pillai. Your suggestions for means of supplying good drinking water will receive the careful consideration of Government. But I may tell you that even now the question of sinking a few wells is under the consideration of the Government and estimates are being prepared.

The Achal Office at the Monday Market has been recommended to be removed from the present site and the Anchal Superintendent is on the look-out for a proper site. The matter is under correspondence.

Then you said that some rules relating to motor traffic should be modified. Government will consider whether the modifications that you suggested are desirable and such modifications as are desirable will be introduced. The other points will be investigated.

### 82. Merchants and Income Tax Regulation.

MR. M. LAKSHMANAN PILLAI, JANARDANA PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Alleppey*) said that he represented about the grievances of the traders on account of the working of the Income Tax Regulation at the last session of the Assembly. The Government had sent him a reply to the effect that the Income Tax Commissioner had reported that the Tahsildars and the Division Assistants were not insisting on the production of account books for examination every year, by all the traders, but only if considered absolutely necessary, the account books were examined. This was not true. The above officers were not satisfied unless they had examined once every year the account books of all merchants who had submitted 'D' form notices. This meant that the officers did not believe in the 'D' form notices of any one of the merchants. Hence in future it should be insisted that account books should be ordered to be produced only in cases where there was a strong ground to disbelieve the 'D' form statement and that ordinarily the merchants should not be put to any inconvenience on this account.

In the Government letter above referred to, it was also stated that all reasonable expenditure permissible under the Rules, was allowed by the Income Tax officers. There were some items of expenditure which were incidental to the carrying on of the business of traders. But the officers allowed only some, in making allowances for abatement of income tax. For instance, the expenditure under "charity", "*Vattachilavu*", "vehicle hire", "*panisupari*" and under salaries paid to relatives who had no claim to any share in the business, was disallowed. These items were indispensable for carrying on any business in Travancore and should not be disallowed. Hence the existing Rules should be amended so as to clearly specify which items of expenditure would be allowed and which items were to be excluded.

Another grievance was that, even when merchants had incurred very great loss in their business they were not spared from being assessed.